TL 5625

LEMBAGA PEMBELA HAK-HAK AZASI MANUSIA

Jakarta May 1, 1990

No. : 98/LPHAM/V/90
Re. : Statement

To His Excellency
The Prime Minister of Japan,
Mr. Toshiki Kaifu

Excellency,

Allow us, the Indonesian Institute for the Defence of Human Rights, to avail ourselves of your visit to Indonesia to present to you the following statement :

1. Japan and Indonesia are both countries, which are populated densely and are located in the Pacific Basin. The fact that they are archipelago's influences the geo-political conditions of both nations.

2. As is well known, during the second world-war your country occupied Indonesia and became the direct and indirect cause of sufferance of the Indonesian people. Hundred thousands of Indonesians were forced to work as Romusha's in Birma and other Asian countries and died as victims in the defence of the"Great Asia idea".

3. As far as conditions allowed you to do so Japan paid war reparations to Indonesia but despite that fact the war experiances were not easily forgotten by the Indonesian people.

4. During the second half of this century Japan economical progress was impressive and it was able to develop a good democratic system with a high respect for the freedom of opinion and expression thereof. But it is exactly this progress which should have created uneassiness about humanrights-situations in other asian countries, which left so much to be desired for.

We acknowledge that our country already received much economical assistance from your country. That aid-program effects on one hand considerable economical growth, but on the other hand it is responsible for monopolism, nepotism and conglomeration. For quick economical progress political stability was unavoidable and that kind of stability could only be assured by a security-approach with a strong centralist power at its head. Not much is left of Indonesian democracy and political parties in Indonesia can survive only as long as they support the President's power.

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Security approach means also the abolition of the independency of the Judiciary and is the main cause of human-rights violation in Indonesia and arbitrary killings and arrest in West Irian and East Timor.

In a former meeting between our organisation and Mr. Pronk, the chairman of IGGI, we asked him to stop with giving economical support to a repressive government which shows insufficient or no respect for human rights.

If we would call economical development an important human right, participation in that development, and having a share in its results, are "a conditio sine qua non".

It is therefore, your excellency, that we hope that your country will use the opportunity of meeting with the Indonesian government and officials to request from them a joint respect for human rights and to make efforts to restrict victims of development to an absolute minimum.

We hope sincerely that this, our statement can meet with your approval and that you will have a succesful meeting with our government.

Thanking you beforehand, we remain most respectfully yours,

INSTITUTE FOR THE DEFENCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN INDONESIA

H.J.C. PRINCEN